

**WASHINGTON STATE
WORKFORCE TRAINING AND EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
MEETING NO. 108
JANUARY 26, 2006**

**A SKILLED AND EDUCATED WORKFORCE
AN ASSESSMENT OF THE NUMBER AND TYPE OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND
TRAINING CREDENTIALS REQUIRED TO MEET EMPLOYER DEMAND**

This is the first joint report of the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board, the Higher Education Coordinating Board, and the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges. House Bill 3103, enacted in 2004, requires the three agencies to conduct a biennial assessment of “the number and type of higher education and training credentials required to match employer demand for a skilled and educated work force”. This report is the first product of that legislative direction.

The report indicates:

- The state’s current supply of workers who have completed mid-level preparation—more than one year but less than four years of postsecondary training or education—will meet only 83 percent of the expected employer demand during 2007-2012.
- Increasing the supply of workers with mid-level preparation at the rate of population growth will not close the gap and meet employer demand. It will take policy changes to increase sufficiently this sub-baccalaureate capacity.
- A mismatch exists between the supply and demand of workers prepared for occupations requiring preparation at the baccalaureate level and above. Specifically, Washington does not produce enough graduates at those levels to meet employer demand for workers in a number of fields, most notably computer science, engineering, and health care.
- The higher education system will need to expand at the baccalaureate level in a range of academic and professional fields to meet specific occupational needs. Also needed are increased numbers of students who earn professional and doctoral degrees annually.

At the Board meeting, staff from the three agencies will present the full report.

Board Action Required: None. For discussion purposes only.